

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 4 and 5 and cancels claims 1, 3 and 6-9. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2, 4 and 5.

The Examiner is informed that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 27, 2004 submitting a listing of references cited in a foreign Office Action. A copy of said May 27, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement is attached herewith. An indication that said Information Disclosure Statement has been considered is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the Abstract as not conforming to the requirements of MPEP §608.01(b). Amendments were made to the Abstract to conform to the requirements of MPEP §608.01(b). Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,649) in view of Walker (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,001). As indicated above, claims 1, 3 and 6-9 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 1, 3 and 6-9 is rendered moot. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal if this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1, 3 and 6-9 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1, 3 and 6-9 are taught or suggested by Bowen or Walker whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. The cancellation of claims 1, 3 and 6-9 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

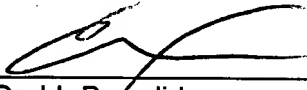
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4 and 5 were amended to be in independent including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2, 4 and 5 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2, 4 and 5 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2, 4 and 5 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (566.40760X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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